

Deafness Not Major Handicap Nowadays

By ROY O. GILBERT, M. D., L. A. County Health Officer

Not so many years ago, deafness was considered a major handicap. Very little was known about its many causes so nothing much could be done either to prevent it or arrest its progress. The victim of deafness and the people around him had to suffer it through as best they might. Today, much of that has been changed. Deafness can now be remedied or arrested in the

majority of cases. The numerous forms of hearing impairment can, for the sake of simplicity, be grouped into two main types, namely, conductive or middle ear loss and perceptible or nerve loss. The conductive form is the one most frequently encountered and is also the one that can, in most instances, be successfully treated. Conductive deafness is a condition, resulting from changes in the outer or middle ear, that interferes with the passage of sound to the inner ear. Any part of the ear canal, the eardrum, or the three small bones of the middle ear may be the source of the trouble. Occasionally, the blocking of the Eustachian tube, the small passage leading from the middle ear to the throat, also results in loss of hearing.

Causes Told
Some of the causes for con-

duction loss include the accumulation of wax or the presence of a foreign body in the ear canal; the destruction of part or all of the eardrum or one of the bones of the middle ear; complications of the common contagious diseases of childhood, chronic sore throats or sinusitis, meningitis or any of the other illnesses that may involve the ear. Or it may be due to otosclerosis which is the cause of a large percentage of all cases of adult deafness.

Otosclerosis is a condition wherein a bony growth occurs around the end of the third bone of the middle ear (stirrup) that fits into the small opening (oval window) leading into the inner ear. This growth prevents the three little bones from moving freely and so interferes with the transmission of sound vibrations to the nerve fibers of the ear. This condition, which rarely occurs in children, usually starts between the ages of 16 to 20 and occurs more often in women than in men. It tends to be hereditary, and once started, tends to get worse.

Can Be Cured
In nearly all cases of hearing impairment due to these causes the nerve of hearing is generally undamaged so this condition, due to medical, surgical, or mechanical aid, can be "cured" or arrested in most cases. The wax and foreign bodies can be removed, the eardrum can be patched up—artificial ones are constructed in some instances—and the fenestration operation has been dramatically successful in many advanced cases of otosclerosis. Antibiotic and sulfa drugs often clear up or prevent the development of infections that might injure the hearing.

If other measures fail, the use of a hearing aid is necessary. During the last 10 years, these aids have shrunk in size and weight one-third and, according to the American Hearing Society, have increased in efficiency 300 per cent. Certainly no more hesitation should be felt in using them than in wearing glasses.

There are many hearing aids on the market but not all of them are acceptable. The Metropolitan Hearing Center, 215 W. Fifth St., Los Angeles (MADison 8-1307) will be glad to give information on those that are, or are not, approved by the American Medical Association and the American Hearing Society.

Next week's article will discuss nerve or perceptible deafness which presents a much more serious problem.

BONES IN HEAD
A human skull is composed of 22 bones of varying shapes and sizes.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Vincent K. Hebron, 185 Via la Ciruela, on March 13, was an 8 lb., 12 oz. son, whom they have named Michael Patrick. His place of birth was Torrance Memorial Hospital. Mr. Hebron is district agent for Farmer's Insurance in Torrance. On the maternal side, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Chappelle, of Walnut Creek, Calif., welcomed their new grandson, while paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Vincent L. Hebron of Evanston, Ill. Young Michael Patrick joins his two-year-old brother, Mark Vincent, at the Hebron home, where new grandmother, Mrs. Chappelle, is spending a few weeks with the family before she returns to her Walnut Creek home.

On March 16, at 11:31 p.m., at Torrance hospital, a new son arrived for Rivierans Mr. and Mrs. Ned Hutter, 486 Calle de Aragon. Named Ned Derek, the new son weighed 7 lbs., 11 oz., at birth. He is the first child for the Hutter's.

Dr. and Mrs. R. M. Wurtz, formerly of 330 Via Colusa, moved recently into their new

Round the Riviera Easements for Sewer System Outlined

By Mary and Jack Webb FR 5-9851

At a surprise luncheon at the home of Mrs. Howard Wilkerson, of Palos Verdes Estates, Mrs. Spencer Conway, 460 Palos Verdes Blvd., Hollywood Riviera, newly elected president of the Tau Omega Chapter of the Delphinian Society, presented a jewel-encrusted pin to outgoing president Rivieran Mrs. Lloyd M. Hennen, 114B Vista del Mar.

The presentation was made as an award of merit, for a past president receives a jeweled pin only if the pattern plan of the Delphinians has been followed for the course of a study during her term in office.

Highlight of the luncheon was a large cake, decorated with the symbol of the president's pin. Present at the luncheon was Vice-president Mrs. Robert Matson, 228 Via Alameda, and other Rivierans who belong to the Tau Omega Chapter.

Of note is the letter from City Engineer Ronald Bishop, recommending the city accept easements for sewers for Riviera District 1, which has been filed as a matter of record. One step closer to getting the sewers we sorely need. Next comes the bids and soon we'll be able to fill our bathtubs deeper than one-half inch or so.

Our condolences to Dr. Joseph G. Breco, 114 Camino de las Colinas, whose wife, Mrs. Sudie Breco, passed away last Thursday at Ada, Okla. Mrs. Breco left here last summer on a trip to Europe and South America, but suffered a partial stroke in Hot Springs, Ark. She was moved as soon as able to Ada, where she apparently had been recovering. Funeral services were held last Saturday at Forest Lawn.

Troop 156 of the Riviera Brownies, under the leadership of Mrs. Henry Graef, 115 Via los Miradores, held a mothers' meeting on Wed., March 24, at the home of Mrs. Carlton Paul, 183 Via los Miradores. Purpose of the meeting was to discuss the day camp for the Brownies this summer and plan the troop's activities. It was reported, Assistant leader of troop 156 is Mrs. Louis Szabo, 157 Paseo de las Delicias.

Other news of this troop, reports Mrs. Graef, includes the coming investiture ceremonies for four new members who recently moved into Riviera. These girls, soon to become full fledged members are Mary Merline, Diane Metzger, Patty Klinger, and Patty Pendleton.

Surprise to us was the news that the Louis O'Jibways have come home to Riviera from the Far East. Oldtimers will recall that the O'Jibways, complete with twins Buddy and Teresa, left here in 1952, bound for Formosa and new duties for Dad in his capacity as engineer for Western Enterprises. We discovered they've been home in Riviera at 250 Paseo de Granada for quite a time, having flown back via Philippine Airlines, via Hong Kong. Mrs. O'Jibway tells us they spent a week's vacation at Hong Kong, and leaving hubby Louis there, the family flew on to Honolulu and thence home. Louis followed them a bit later, and the whole family was home in Riviera to celebrate the holidays. Speaking for all Rivierans, we welcome you home, O'Jibways. Nice to have you here.

New enterprise for Los Caneleros is their scheduled sale of Easter lilies from April 15 till Easter in front of Rivieran Jack Veltman's Frontier Market.

Salvage Week Campaign Scheduled By Salvation Army for April 12

Torrance residents are urged to keep the Salvation Army in mind when disposing of "out-of-use" articles uncovered in closets and garages during spring cleaning.

These articles will be sought during the Annual Salvation Army Salvage Week campaign here April 12-17. Chairman J. Hugh Shertley Jr. said.

Officials of Los Caneleros tell us that Veltman is sponsoring the sale and that the proceeds will go toward the purchase of new uniforms and costumes for the group's spring concert. And to those of you who have heard and appreciated the tonal qualities and fine arrangements of Los Caneleros and who want to know how soon will be the concert, we can only say, we don't know. We asked but they tell us the date is not yet definite. Whenever it is, we'll be there, you can bet.

Starting April 22, a Brownie leader training course will be held at Redondo High School room 40, from 9 a.m. till 11:30. The course, scheduled for a weekly Tuesday-Thursday meeting, will last into May, according to Mrs. Florence Miller, 155 Via los Miradores, who tells us that the full course consists of eight classes or sessions. Full information can be had by calling the South Bay Council for Girl Scouts at FA 4-6735.

Over one hundred persons came, saw and admired the art exhibit last Sunday afternoon at Casa Galeria, 408 Via Monte de Oro. Youngish (6 to 14 years old) students of Vara Grube held their first exhibition, under the arrangements of Social Chairman Mrs. T. F. Dalel, assisted by Mesdames Thorsten Burman, Jack Satterlee, Henry Schmald, and Robert Matson, Rivierans all.

Widgeon Slaughter Ends
A special order by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which allowed the shooting of croppating widgeons in Imperial County came to an end Sunday, March 21.

WHAT'S DOING

R. S. Pyle, your Telephone Manager in Torrance

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